

The Ohio State University Nisonger Center

Partnering to Promote Health and Wellness of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

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THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY
NISONGER CENTER

The Ohio State University Nisonger Center was founded in 1966, among the first group of federally funded University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs). More than 41,000 persons with intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorders and related disabilities and their families receive services annually through the various Nisonger clinics and community services.

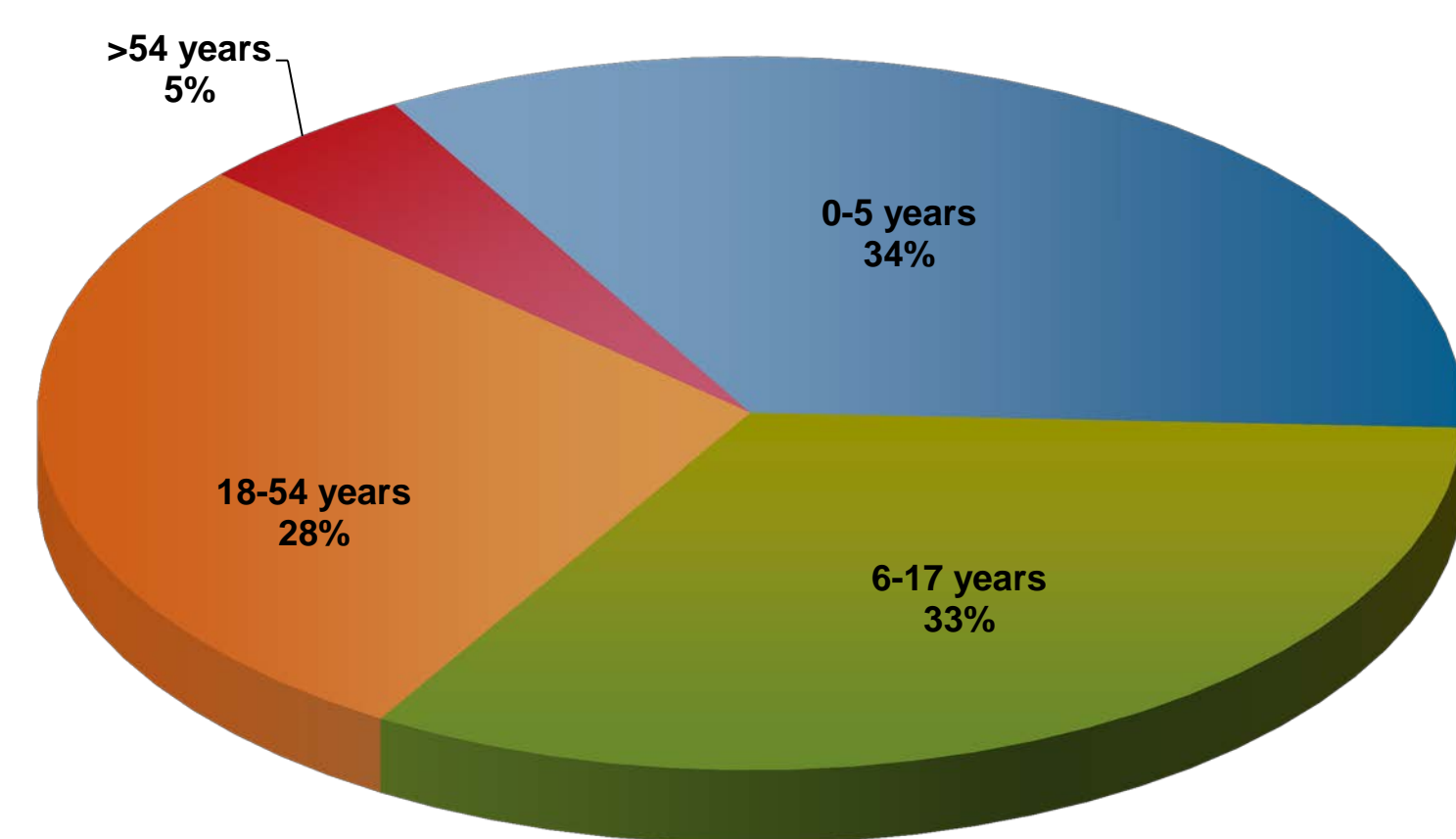


Figure 1. Ages of individuals served

Children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities may have significant developmental and health care needs and face disparities in health and access to healthcare compared to people without disabilities.

We engage with community partners to increase community awareness of the health needs of people with disabilities, integration of health promotion programs into existing community structure, and provide disability training to future health care providers. We will present four innovative community engagement programs.

Dental Program

The Nisonger Center Dental Program partners with the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) and the Franklin County Family and Early Childhood Center to provide comprehensive dental services to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those affected by disparities in access to dental services.

The Nisonger Dental Program, in partnership with Special Olympics Special Smiles Ohio, provides free dental screenings to athletes annually.



In Summer 2017, over 400 Ohioans with intellectual & developmental disabilities received dental screenings at Special Olympics.

Creating Inclusive Communities

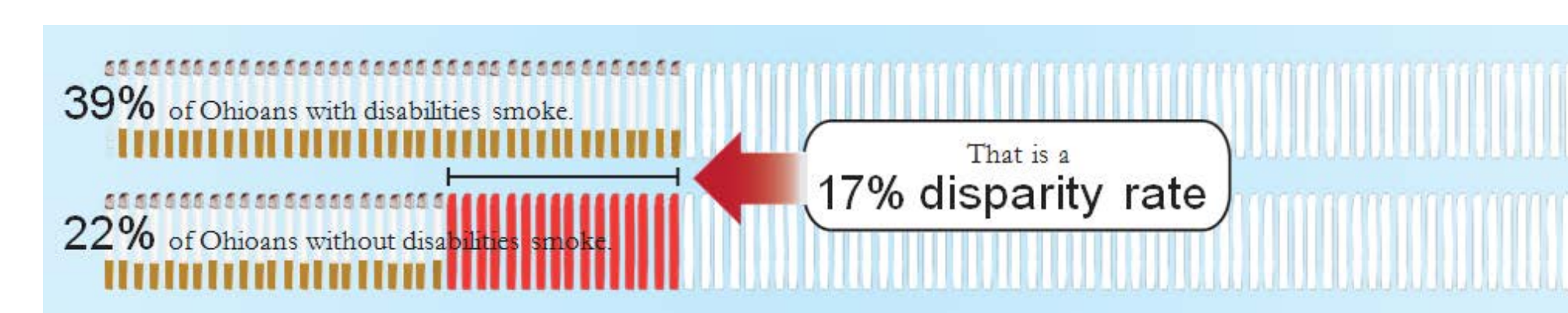
Nisonger Center partnered with communities in Adams and Marion County to change policies, systems, and environments to make healthy choices (i.e. tobacco-free workplace policies, bike trails, nutrition); the easy choices for people with disabilities in those communities.



Adams County Creating Inclusive Communities adapted bike to promote inclusive physical activity at schools and recreation centers for children with disabilities.

Living Independent From Tobacco (LIFT)

Ohioans with disabilities are more likely to use tobacco and face barriers to engaging in cessation programs.



According to 2011 Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Survey data, Ohioans with disabilities have a 17% disparity in tobacco use.

Nisonger Center partners with public health and disability organizations to offer smoking cessation programs that were designed for people with disabilities. We also build community capacity to meet the needs of people with disabilities through offering train-the-trainer sessions throughout Ohio.

Training

Healthcare providers report feeling unprepared and uncomfortable caring for patients with disabilities.

- Nisonger Center provides inter-professional training in developmental disabilities to future health care providers.
- As these students graduate they incorporate disability competencies in their professional practices.
- Annually more than 13,000 students and community professionals receive training or participate in continuing educational programs.

Our trainees come from a wide range of disciplines:

- Audiology
- Dentistry
- Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics
- Family Advocates
- Genetic Counseling
- IDD Psychology
- Medical Dietetics
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Public Health
- Self-Advocates
- Special Education
- Speech Language Pathology
- Social Work



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